

Message Text

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NASA/I/BMZOOK (IN DRAFT
NASA/I/AWFRUTKIN (IN DRAFT)
NASA/E/RMCCORMACK (IN DRAFT)
NASA/F/O'DONNELL (IN DRAFT)
WFC/JDUKE (IN DRAFT)
NSC/RROSENBERG (IN DRAFT)
NSC/OSTP/BHUBERMAN (IN DRAFT)
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TAGS: TSPA, UR

SUBJECT: SPACE AGREEMENT: ROCKET INTERCOMPARISON TEST
(04.01.00)

FOR SCICOUN

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PHILIP A. THIBIDEAU,
NASA'S OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, TO DR. L. A.
ALEKSANDROV, HYDROMET SERVICE, WITH A COPY TO INTERCOSMOS.

2. JUNE 22, 1977 04.01.00
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DR. L. A. ALEKSANDROV
HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL SERVICE OF THE USSR
12, PAVLIK MOROZOV STREET
MOSCOW, D-376, USSR

DEAR DR. ALEKSANDROV:

IN THE ABSENCE OF DR. TEPPER AT COSPAR, I AM WRITING TO YOU CONCERNING NASA'S PUBLIC INFORMATION PLANS FOR THE INTER-COMPARISON TEST IN AUGUST. THE GUIDELINES IN OUR NOVEMBER 1976 SUMMARY OF RESULTS PROVIDE FOR CONSULTATION ON PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASES INVOLVING THE OTHER SIDE'S PARTICIPA-

TION. ACCORDINGLY, I WANT TO INFORM YOU THAT WE PLAN TO ISSUE THE ENCLOSED STATEMENT (ENCLOSURE A) TO THE PRESS ON JULY 1. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY COMMENTS YOU MIGHT HAVE BEFORE THAT DATE.

IN ADDITION TO THE NEWS RELEASE REFERRED TO ABOVE, WE SUGGEST THAT WE ISSUE A JOINT "PRESS KIT," ABOUT 10 DAYS BEFORE THE TEST, WHICH WOULD CONTAIN DETAILS OF THE

PROJECT, INFORMATION ON THE ROCKET SYSTEMS, LAUNCH FACILITIES AND KEY PARTICIPANTS ON BOTH SIDES. SUCH A JOINT "PRESS KIT" MIGHT FOLLOW THE ATTACHED OUTLINE (ENCLOSURE B).

IF YOU ARE AGREEABLE TO THE ISSUANCE OF A JOINT "PRESS KIT," PRESUMABLY IN BOTH RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH, WE WOULD SEND THE MATERIAL WE HAVE PREPARED ALONG TO YOU BY TELEGRAM THROUGH THE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW. WE WOULD NEED TO RECEIVE COMPARABLE MATERIAL FROM YOU ON THE SOVIET ROCKET UNCLASSIFIED

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SYSTEM, SHIP AND KEY PARTICIPANTS NO LATER THAN JULY 15 IF WE ARE TO GET THE DOCUMENT OUT IN TIME TO BE USEFUL TO THE MEDIA.

WE DO FEEL THAT A JOINT "PRESS KIT" IS THE BEST WAY TO RESPOND TO THE INTEREST OF THE MEDIA IN OUR COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY. HOWEVER, IF YOU PREFER NOT TO ISSUE A JOINT "PRESS KIT," WE WILL ISSUE A US "PRESS KIT" COVERING THE US ROCKET SYSTEM, FACILITIES AND PARTICIPANTS AND REFER THE MEDIA TO SOVIET OFFICIALS FOR INFORMATION ON YOUR ROCKET SYSTEM, FACILITIES AND PARTICIPANTS.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HOLD JOINT PRESS CONFERENCES ONE DAY PRIOR TO AND ONE DAY FOLLOWING THE TESTS. WE HOPE THAT YOU AND DR. TEPPER WOULD PARTICIPATE IN SUCH CONFERENCES.

NASA PRACTICE REQUIRES THAT ALL OUR EVENTS BE OPEN TO THE NEWS MEDIA. ACCORDINGLY, NEWS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE CONTROL CENTER AND THE ACTIVITIES THERE AS WELL AS A VIEWING SITE AT WALLOPS.

ON A RELATED MATTER, WE FEEL CERTAIN THAT MEDIA REPRESENTA-

TIVES WILL BE INTERESTED IN VISITING THE "AKADEMIK KOROLEV." WE PLAN TO REFER SUCH REQUESTS TO SOVIET OFFICIALS.

OUR INTERPRETER FOR THE TEST WILL ASSIST AT PRESS CONFERENCES AND OTHER EXCHANGES WITH THE NEWS MEDIA. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL ALSO HAVE AN INTERPRETER AVAILABLE FOR THESE

ACTIVITIES.

SINCERELY,

PHILIP A. THIBIDEAU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL
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PROGRAM POLICY OFFICE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
NASA

ENCLOSURES (2)

CC: INTERCOSMOS

ENCLOSURE A: DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

U.S., SOVIETS TO CONDUCT JOINT ROCKET TESTS OFF VIRGINIA COAST

NASA AND THE SOVIET HYDROMET SERVICE ARE PLANNING TO CONDUCT A TWO-WEEK LONG ROCKETSONDE INTERCOMPARISON TEST IN THE AREA OF WALLOPS ISLAND, VIRGINIA, IN MID-AUGUST OF THIS YEAR. NASA WILL LAUNCH ITS ROCKETS FROM NASA'S WALLOPS FLIGHT CENTER AND THE SOVIET HYDROMET SERVICE WILL LAUNCH ITS ROCKETS FROM THE "AKADEMIK KOROLEV," A HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL RESEARCH SHIP, WHICH WILL BE LOCATED OFF-SHORE IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS INTERCOMPARISON IS TO ESTABLISH A BASIS FOR RELATING US AND SOVIET MEASUREMENTS OF UPPER AIR TEMPERATURE AND WINDS TAKEN BY THEIR RESPECTIVE ROCKETSONDE SYSTEMS AND TO SUGGEST POSSIBLE CORRECTIONS FOR ANY DISCREPANCIES FOUND.

THE 1971 NASA/SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AGREEMENT ON SPACE SCIENCE AND APPLICATIONS CALLED FOR THE EXCHANGE OF METEOROLOGICAL ROCKET DATA FROM SEVERAL LAUNCH SITES ALONG TWO MERIDIONAL LINES, ONE IN THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE (ABOUT 60 DEGREES EAST) AND ONE IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE (ABOUT
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70 DEGREES WEST). THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE NETWORK IS COORDINATED BY THE USSR HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL SERVICE (ON BEHALF OF THE SOVIET ACADEMY) AND THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE NETWORK IS COORDINATED BY NASA.

THE EXCHANGE OF ROCKETSONDE DATA BEGAN IN JANUARY OF 1972 AND BOTH SIDES BEGAN PERFORMING HEMISPHERIC ANALYSES WITH THAT DATA. THESE ANALYSES SOON REVEALED THAT THE MEASURED TEMPERATURE FIELD IN THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE WAS CONSISTENTLY COLDER THAN THAT OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. AS A RESULT

OF THIS DISCREPANCY, BOTH COUNTRIES BEGAN EVALUATING THEIR ROCKETSONDE SYSTEMS FOR POSSIBLE SOURCES OF ERROR.

IN 1973, DIRECT COMPARISONS OF THE US, USSR, FRENCH, AND BRITISH ROCKETSONDES WERE CONDUCTED AT KOUROU, FRENCH

GUIANA. THESE COMPARISONS REVEALED SOME DISCREPANCIES IN MEASUREMENTS OF TEMPERATURE AND WIND DATA.

SINCE THE 1973 COMPARISONS, IMPROVEMENTS IN METEOROLOGICAL ROCKET SYSTEMS AND DATA ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES MAKE IT NECESSARY TO AGAIN COMPARE THE U.S. AND USSR SYSTEMS.

ENCLOSURE B: PRESS KIT OUTLINE (ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION)

GENERAL RELEASE (SIMILAR TO ENCLOSURE A)

DESCRIPTIONS OF US AND SOVIET ROCKETS AND PAYLOADS
(SIMILAR TO MATERIAL IN OPERATIONS PLAN)

DESCRIPTIONS OF US AND SOVIET LAUNCH OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES:

- A. LAUNCH SCHEDULES AND COUNTDOWNS
- B. NORMAL FLIGHT TRAJECTORIES AND DISPERSION
- C. LAUNCH LOCATIONS

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NASA RESPONSIBILITIES

HYDROMET SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES

LIST OF KEY PARTICIPANTS AND TITLES ON BOTH SIDES.

(TOTAL LENGTH: 10-15 PAGES)

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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